

2019

UA1C2/21 Downing University Center Photos

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WKU Archives, "UA1C2/21 Downing University Center Photos" (2019). *WKU Archives Collection Inventories*. Paper 550.
https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_fin_aid/550

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Western Kentucky University

UA1C2 WKU Archives Building & Structures Photos

Subseries 21 Downing University Center Photos

Contact information:

WKU Archives

1906 College Heights Blvd.#11092

Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Phone: 270-745-4793

Email: archives@wku.edu

Home page: <https://wku.edu/library/archive>

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Administrative History: Artificial collection created by WKU Archives to group Downing University Center images together. The majority of the photos are from WKU sources, but some donated by individuals.

Other Names - Downing University Center 1969-2013

Downing Student Union, 2014-

Date Built - 1970

Cost of Construction - \$4.1 million

Gross Square Feet - 193,547 (1970)

Architects - Ben Johnson & Frederick St. Clair, Owensboro

Namesake:

Dero Downing was born September 10, 1921 at Fountain Run in Monroe County, Kentucky, and grew up at Horse Cave in Hart County. He enrolled at WKU in 1939 where he played basketball and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree. After serving in the Navy in World War II, he returned to Western as a mathematics teacher and coach at the College's Training School. He later became director of the Training School, college registrar, dean of admissions, dean of business affairs, and vice-president for administrative and business affairs. When Kelly Thompson resigned on May 21, 1969 Downing indicated his willingness to serve if asked. The WKU Board of Regents elected him president on August 22, 1969. He served until his retirement in 1979. Upon his resignation as president in 1979 Downing became president of the College Heights Foundation, a position he held until his death on April 4, 2011.

History:

Downing University Center aka DUC is a 172,000 square foot, air-conditioned building. "The first floor will contain student shops, mechanical rooms and storage areas. The main floor will include a cafeteria seating about 500 persons, a grill accommodating about 560, a 750-seat theater and the main entrance lobby. On the third floor will be a university store, browsing library and reading room, offices of the Associated Students, music and television rooms, a rehearsal room, meeting rooms, and classrooms. Bowling lanes, billiards, table tennis and shuffleboard facilities provided on the fourth floor. ["University Center Bids Due in Sept.," Park City Daily News] It replaced the Garrett Conference Center as the Student Union.

Additions:

1997 - McDonald's, Chik-fil-A, Freshens, Topper Café were added

1999 - renovations on 4th floor due to major storm in 1998, also entire building received new lighting, a dance floor with a sound system, an expanded outdoor eating area, and a huge arcade. This was the first major renovation since 1970 when the building was completed.

2003 - enclosed walkway around south end of DUC with brick and glass, expanded dinning space by 400 seats, added second floor space

2005 - construction of Student Success Center which includes Academic Advising Center, Career Services Center, and Students with Disabilities Services

2012-2014 - renovation of entire building, building renamed Downing Student Center

Description: Images of the Downing University Center.

Dates: 1970-present

Extent: 11 folders, oversize, 5 negatives

Subject Analytics:

Dining Services (WKU)

Western Kentucky University

Downing University Center (WKU)

Digital Commons:

Architecture

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Photography

Accession Information: These records transferred to WKU Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials:

Images with [UA1C2/21 prefix](#)

[UA30/1/2 Planning, Design & Construction Building File](#)

Preferred Citation: UA1C2/21 Downing University Center Photos, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2015, revised 2019.

Finding Aid Report

02/15/2019

UA1C2.21	Print, Photographic	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA1C2
Title	UA1C WKU Archives Photograph Collection	
Collection	Series 2 Buildings & Structures	
Scope & Content	Subseries 21 Downing University Center Photos	
	WKU Archives	
	Images of the Downing University Center.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
MC7	Drawer 4	WKU Archives		Downing University Center
Description	Dero Downing University Center, 1968, 20 x 10 mounted on board 24 1/2 x 14 1/2			Subjects Architectural drawings
NC	N5490-N5494	WKU Archives		Downing University Center
				Subjects Negatives
OS Box 34	9	WKU Archives		Downing University Center
				Subjects Bowling alleys
PC	F4849	WKU Archives		Downing University Center
Description	Nite Class			Subjects Nightclubs
PC	F894	WKU Archives		Downing University Center - Bookstore
Description	Slides			Subjects Bookstores
PC	F895	WKU Archives		Downing University Center - Bookstore
Description	Karimi, Ali Suweston, Janice Suweston, John			Subjects Bookstores
PC	F896	WKU Archives		Downing University Center - Bookstore
Description	Suweston, Janice Suweston, John			Subjects Bookstores
PC	F897	WKU Archives		Downing University Center - Bookstore
Description	Davenport, Susan Gibson, Kim Liu, Shuhyun Mitchell, Carl			Subjects Bookstores

PC	F898	WKU Archives	Downing University Center - Bookstore
Description	Cary, Jennifer Collin, Kristina Constant, Larry Gatewood, Alice Miller, Joni		Subjects Bookstores
PC	F1146-F1147	WKU Archives	Downing University Center
			Subjects Renderings Negatives Postcards
PC	F1149	WKU Archives	Downing University Center - Interior
Description	Food court Projection room		Subjects Negatives Cafeterias Floor coverings Projectors Snack bars Ticket offices Bowling alleys Stairways
PC	F1152	WKU Archives	Downing University Center
			Subjects Negatives Slides
PC	F1545	WKU Archives	Downing University Center
			Subjects Cafeterias Students Cash registers Food Buffets (Furniture) Soda fountains